

AMENDED

ARIZONA STATE SENATE
RESEARCH STAFF



TO: MEMBERS OF THE SENATE

DATE: March 24, 2016

SUBJECT: Strike everything amendment to H.B. 2350, relating to traumatic event counseling

ALEX VIDAL
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH ANALYST
PUBLIC SAFETY, MILITARY AND TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE
Telephone: (602) 926 -3214

Purpose

Requires the state or a political subdivision to establish a program to provide up to 12 visits of psychotherapy treatment to public safety employees that experience certain traumatic events.

Background

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 23-1043.01, a mental injury, illness or condition is not considered a compensable injury under the Workers' Compensation program unless some unexpected, unusual or extraordinary stress, or a physical injury, related to the employment was a substantial contributing cause of the mental injury, illness or condition.

There may be a fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation due to the cost of funding the state program prescribed under this act.

Provisions

1. Requires the state or a political subdivision to establish a program to provide up to 12 visits of psychotherapy treatment to public safety employees that experience any one of the following events:
 - a) witnessing the death or maiming of a human being or the immediate aftermath of such an event;
 - b) responding to or being directly involved in a criminal investigation of certain dangerous crimes against children who are under 15 years of age;
 - c) requiring rescue in the line of duty where one's life was endangered;
 - d) in the case of a police officer, the use of deadly force or subjection to deadly force in the line of duty, regardless of whether any injuries were sustained; or
 - e) in the case of a firefighter, witnessing the death of another firefighter in the line of duty.
2. Specifies that the treatment must be provided by a licensed psychologist, or a therapist with training and expertise in treating trauma, and that the services can be provided through telemedicine.
3. Specifies that payment for treatment under the act does not create a presumption of compensability for a mental illness, injury or condition under the Workers' Compensation program.
4. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

STRIKER MEMO - Amended

H.B. 2350

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Amendments Adopted by Committee

- Adopted the strike everything amendment.

Senate Action

PSMT	3/16/16	DP	6-0-0
APPROP	3/22/16	DPA/SE	8-0-0

Prepared by Senate Research

March 24, 2016

AV/ljs